

ACCUSED HUSBAND LED DOUBLE LIFE

Dr. H. E. Webster Must Answer for Murder of Third and Bigamous Wife.

HIS TRIAL STARTS TO-DAY

Expected That Insanity Will Be Defense of Young Physician.

Oregon, Ill., January 3.—The final chapters of a double life and its tragic consequences will begin to-morrow, when Dr. Harry E. Webster, the young Chicago medical student, will go on trial for the murder of his third and bigamous wife, Bessie Kent Webster, whose body was found in a ravine near Dixon, Ill., the home of the accused man's parents, September 23.

Barring the possible postponement of the trial, owing to the illness of J. E. Erwin, one of the chief attorneys for the defense, the State's attorney is confident of having the jury box filled from the special venire that has been summoned this afternoon, when the battle for the young intern's freedom will begin. Dr. Webster has been showing a marked impatience for the trial to start, as he is confident that his story, alleged persecutions by the murdered woman will result in his acquittal.

Women Write of Sympathy. Members of the medical fraternity throughout the State of Illinois have contributed to the defense fund of Webster, a number of women in the West, who have expressed deep sympathy for him in letters accompanying their contributions. A pool started by his friends and associates in the Pollock Hospital contributed to the defense fund, and A. G. Harris, attorney for the Northwestern Railroad Company at Dixon, has informed Webster's lawyer that his friends in his home town will be glad to render any financial assistance needed.

It is expected that Webster's lawyer will present the appointment of an insanity commission at the present state of the doctor's mind. This will be requested on the ground of many conflicting statements made by the prisoner regarding the murder of his wife, and his strange actions since his arrest. The basis of the defense probably will be insanity, or a combination of all three.

Story of Duplicity.

The story of the deceit and duplicity of the young doctor, which resulted in such a cold-blooded tragedy, is one of the most startling in the criminal history of the State of Illinois. All the time that Webster was studying medicine in Chicago he was carrying on a courtship with Miss Zoe Varney, the pretty daughter of a wealthy citizen of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. In the meantime he was in the habit of visiting his wife, Bessie Kent, who was living in Chicago, by one of his student friends. The girl seemed to take to the young doctor immediately, and then began a series of clandestine meetings that caused the girl to fall deeply in love with the man.

Webster gave so much time to the girl that he gradually began to neglect his regular private practice, and his fiancée in Iowa, whose father was rendering him financial aid. He finally furnished a home for Miss Kent in Chicago, convincing her relatives that they had been married, and lived with her for several months, during which time he gave her the impression that he was her husband. He then returned to Chicago to finish his studies and send for his wife as soon as he had furnished up a home.

Upon his arrival in Chicago he was visited by Bessie Kent's sister, Kattie Kent Newberger, who charged him with deceiving her sister and demanded that he marry Bessie immediately in order to protect her good name. Webster claims he agreed to do this

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With the understanding that the Kent girl was to secure a divorce as soon as possible after the ceremony had been performed, the pair were married January 12, barely a week after their marriage to the Varney girl.

Futile Attempt for Divorce. After his second marriage Webster begged the Kent girl to get a divorce, which she refused to do, but demanded that he take her to his old home in Dixon and introduce her to his parents as his wife. In desperation, Webster endeavored to secure a divorce on his own account from his second wife, but the case was thrown out of court.

Friday night, September 15, Webster started to Dixon to spend the week-end with his parents. As he stepped from the train he was met by the Kent girl, who had followed him from Chicago on the same train. Not wishing to take her to his home or be seen by any of his friends, he induced her to go to a rooming house, where, he claims, they sat up all night quarreling. In the morning he hired a horse and buggy and drove out of town, and while passing through a stretch of dense woods, according to his confession after being arrested, they began quarreling, and the heat of his passion he stabbed her body all the possible marks of identification, and carrying it to a ravine, concealed it under a pile of leaves, where it was accidentally discovered ten days later.

Upon being placed in jail Webster was induced to confess that he committed the crime by a letter from his wife in Iowa, who then sued for divorce. During the divorce suit it was revealed that Webster had been married in fall of 1901 to a Miss Mae Graf, the daughter of a restaurant proprietor, who divorced him soon after the marriage. It was the discovery of this marriage that completely turned his wife in Iowa against him.

NO FEDERAL STATUTE AGAINST DEFILING FLAG

Measure for the Protection of American Emblem Once Defeated in House.

Washington, January 3.—Recent charges and denials of abuse and misuse of the American flag have developed the fact that there is no national statute making such acts punishable. The House of Representatives has passed a bill to have severe laws on the subject, and the War Department officials are hopeful that the Senate will read the bill and pass it to adopt similar laws.

Major-General Leonard Wood, chief of staff of the army, contends that the national emblem should never be used as a table covering or be tacked up as a drape, and that it should always be suspended from a pole or staff or hung against the wall.

Under the copyright and trade-mark law there is a provision which forbids the use of the flag or of any representation of it as a trade mark, and a law of the States have laws forbidding the use of the flag for purposes.

IMPRISONS HIS MOTHER

Unusual Testimony Offered by Sister in Contest Over Will.

San Diego, Cal., January 3.—In the trial of the Thurston will contest in the Superior Court here yesterday, in which George L. Patterson, a Newcastle, Pa., banker, seeks to deprive Mrs. Katherine Thingley, head of the Universal Brotherhood and Theosophical Society, at Point Loma, of nearly \$250,000, witness to her by his mother, Mrs. Harriet P. Thurston, Mrs. Thingley answered question regarding the management of the society. She said that all the money she had was devoted to the organization and that she never asked for money.

Assistant Attorney-General Resigns. Raleigh, N. C., January 3.—Assistant Attorney-General G. Lyle Jones to-night announced that he had resigned his position to return to France, where he has the practice of law. Attorney-General W. Hickett announces the appointment of Thomas H. Calvert, of Raleigh, to fill the vacancy.

Probing Election Corruption



JUDGE HENRY A. W. SKEEN.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) Bristol, Va., January 3.—Judge Henry A. W. Skeen, of Southwest Virginia, whose investigations into election frauds in Southwest Virginia have

WILL NOT QUIT RACE

Chicago, January 3.—Without referring to Governor Chase S. Osborn's suggestion in a speech at Lansing, Mich., that Senator Robert M. La Follette withdraw from the presidential race, the La Follette national headquarters to-day made a statement denying that Mr. La Follette had any intention of withdrawing.

BLAME FOR BLOODSHED IS LAID TO CHRISTIANS

Paris, January 3.—The Figaro to-day publishes a striking appeal to the world in favor of peace, written by Captain Louis Marie Julien Vaud, best known as Pierre Loti, the famous traveler, author and friend of the Mohammedan, in which he laments the rapacity of Europe in regard to the Mohammedans.

EFFORT RENEWED TO DUST GUFFEY

Washington, January 3.—Renewed efforts to depose Colonel James M. Guffey as Pennsylvania member of the Democratic National Committee in favor of Representative A. Mitchell Palmer will be made at the meeting of the Democratic National Committee on January 8, when it convenes here to name the time and place for holding the Democratic National Convention.

LABOR LEADERS ARRESTED

Muscatine, Ia., January 3.—The arrest of Emmett Flood, of Chicago, national organizer for the American Federation of Labor and the representative of President Gompers, on the charge of being engaged in dynamite work with acid bombs, was the principal development to-day in the grand jury situation here which grew out of the button workers' strike. Flood was arrested on four warrants, three of which charge him with malicious destruction of property.

ONE JURY QUITS, ANOTHER BEGINS

Los Angeles, Cal., January 3.—This week will see the end of a Federal grand jury and the beginning of a county grand jury, both intent upon investigations of dynamite outrages. The Federal grand jury, which indicted Olax A. Twitmore, Anton Johansen and E. E. Munsey, of San Francisco, and J. E. Munsey, of Salt Lake City, all labor leaders, is expected to adjourn Friday. According to United States District Attorney W. J. McCormick, it will be at least three weeks before another jury can be drawn.

DEAD ON EVE OF ELECTION

Albany, N. Y., January 3.—James H. McMahon, of the Democratic party in the State Senate at the last Legislature and a candidate for re-election, was found dead to-day in his room in a hotel here. Mr. McMahon, whose home was in New York City, was thirty-five years old.

HIGH LIVING COST AGAIN EXPLAINED

La Follette Tells Hearers It Is Caused by Overcapitalization of Corporations.

Chicago, January 3.—Asserting that overcapitalization of corporations was the primary cause of the high cost of living, Senator Robert M. La Follette, in a speech to-night, marking his first appearance in Illinois on his present campaign tour, declared it was impossible for the government longer not to subject great money interests to reform.

"I know as much about the trust side of this question as I know about the people's side," said Senator La Follette. "I am not afraid of the biggest trust on earth. They cannot continue to strap on the people the burden of this overcapitalization, which is the cause of the high cost of living. With overcapitalization has gone on to the extent that all the big trusts in the country are in straits. We have got to bring it down, but it cannot be done in a moment. If you took all of the water out of it at once it would do much harm and hurt many innocent people. The problem of the beef, the harvest and the steel trusts has to be worked out scientifically. It will be worked out scientifically, if I have anything to do with it, and I expect to have a good deal to do with it."

Senator La Follette was interrupted here by prolonged cheering. The assertion was taken by his friends as dispelling any doubt as to his intention of remaining in the race for the Republican presidential nomination.

NEW YORK, JANUARY 3.—Governor Woodrow Wilson, of New Jersey, addressed the National Democratic Club here to-night on the topic, "The Democratic Party and the Tariff."

Once again, Mr. Wilson said, the tariff has become "the chief and most critical question of a campaign which must decide the policy of our government, not only in this great matter, but in regard to a score of things which touch the general adjustments of our life." He continued in part: "Our tariff policy has not for several generations been based upon any principle whatever, but only upon a system of favoritism, of patronage, of arbitrary fosterage by the Federal Government. The strength of American industry lies in the skill and intelligence of the American workman, and the capacity of American superintendents and managers in their efficiency and glory of the workingman depend upon all the moral and physical elements involved in the circumstances of his employment.

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TARIFF SYSTEM NOT BASED ON PRINCIPLE

Instead, It is Founded on Favoritism, Patronage and Arbitrary Fosterage by Government, Says Woodrow Wilson.

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Gelett Burgess Wallace Irwin. Another one of Mr. Burgess' famous stories. "Changing Millie's Mind" is quite a process, for Millie is pretty sure who she didn't want to marry. But still she wasn't sure enough and was much too nice to spoil a rattling good story. It is certainly a corker. When it comes to exceeding the speed limit in the fiction game, Mr. Irwin is right there, and with the muffler off. Next Sunday he lets a detective tell a story. The story is absolutely improbable—but for romance and adventure it reads like an Arabian Nights tale. NEXT SUNDAY Has the final verses in "Love Sonnets of a Manicure." If you read the first instalment you surely will not miss the next. Mr. Braley knows how to tell a good yarn in verse, and "The Love Sonnets of a Manicure" IS a good story. Of course there are other features, but if there wasn't another contributor in the magazine but Burgess, Irwin and Braley, you would be cheating yourself out of a good time by not getting next Sunday's Illustrated Sunday Magazine OF THE Sunday Times-Dispatch